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Dr. K. B. Menon :—" May I know, Sir, whether the Government have followed up and checked up the distribution and seen that the distribution is made properly? "

The Hon. Sri A. B. Shetty :—" Yes, to the extent possible."

Outbreak of fire in Neelamangalam cheri

* 1107 *Q.*—Sri K. Parthasarathy (on behalf of Sri L. Anandan) : Will the Hon. the Minister for Finance be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether it is a fact that 120 houses belonging to Harijans in Neelamangalam cheri in Kallakurichi taluk, South Arcot district, were destroyed by fire recently;

(*b*) if so, what relief the Government propose to give to the Harijans affected by the accident; and

(*c*) whether the Government contemplate opening a fire station in the taluk headquarters?

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" (*a*) A fire broke out in Neelamangalam cheri on 3rd December 1954 in which roofs of 111 thatched houses and some household articles were burnt.

" (*b*) A sum of Rs. 3,150 has been granted as relief, at Rs. 30 to each of the 105 families who were poor and eligible for help from the Government.

" (*c*) No, Sir."

Sri K. Parthasarathy :—" Sir, are the Government aware of the fact that the present policy of having a fire station only in municipal areas results in difficulties in areas like Kallakurichi and for 800 square miles around it has not a single municipality? So, will the Government consider the desirability of having a fire station in each taluk headquarters? "

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" Now, we have fixed a target of having a fire station in each of the municipalities, even in respect of which, we have to open fire stations in eleven more municipalities. As soon as that programme is completed, we shall take up the question of opening fire stations in taluk headquarters."

Sri M. P. Subramaniam :—" Even though the policy of the Government is not to locate fire stations in every taluk, at least in the case of Kallakurichi, will the Government consider opening of a fire station in or near Kallakurichi as a special case? For, there are complaints of frequent outbreaks of fire in and around Kallakurichi and this is also revealed by publication of such accidents in the Press."

The Hon. Sri C. Subramaniam :—" I am not aware of any frequent outbreaks of fire, particularly in this area. On the other hand, there is the other criticism that these fire stations

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are a dead-weight on the administration, because they involve too much expenditure. Therefore, that aspect has also to be taken into consideration before we begin to increase the number of fire stations.''

Sri V. MUTHU :—" சமீபத்திலே பத்திரிகையிலே ஈ. வே. ரா. பெரியார் அவர்கள் பெட்ரோலையும், தீ பந்தங்களையும் தயாராக வைத்துக் கொள்ளுங்கள். நான் சொல்லும் நேரத்திலே அது உபயோகப்படுமென்று கூறியிருப்பதைப் பார்க்கின்றோம். நெருப்பு அபாயம் ஏற்படும் பெட்ரோலும், தீயும் உபயோகிக்கப்பட்டால். அப்படி ஏதாவது அபாயம் ஏற்படுகின்ற நேரத்திலே உபயோகப்படுத்திக்கொள்வதற்காக கிராமங்களிலும் தீயணைக்கும் படையை அதிகப்படுத்தும்படியாக கேட்டுக்கொள்ளுகிறேன்."

Mr. SPEAKER :—" இந்தக் கேள்விக்கும் மூலக்கேள்விக்கும் என்ன சம்பந்தம் ? "

Sri M. NARAYANA KURUP :—" Sir, these fire engines are of little use when thatched houses are on fire. May I know whether these houses referred to are thatched ones or tiled ones? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Sir, they were all thatched houses. In spite of the fact that they were all thatched houses and the fire station was located 45 miles away, the fire engines were of some considerable assistance in putting out the fire.''

Sri S. THINAKARASAMI THEVAR :—" பெரும்பாலும் கிராமப் பகுதிகளிலே அடிக்கடி தீ விபத்து ஏற்படுகின்ற காரணத்தாலே, கூடுமான வரையில் ஒவ்வொரு தாலூகா ஹெட்குவாட்டர்சிலும் இம்மாதிரியான தீயணைக்கும் ஸ்டேஷன்களை நிறுவுவதற்கு யோசனை செய்வார்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன் ? "

Mr. SPEAKER :—" A similar question has already been put and answered by the Hon. Minister.''

Sri S. R. ARUMUGAM :—" ஹரிஜனச் சேரிகளில் தீப்பிடித்துக் கொண்டால் சர்க்கார் ஒரு குறிப்பிட்ட தொகையை நிவாரணமாகக் கொடுக்கிறார்கள். அந்தத் தொகையை அதிகப்படுத்துவது விஷயமாக சர்க்கார் கவனிப்பார்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன் ?"

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" கூரை வீடுகளுக்கு மறுபடியும் கூரை போடுவதற்கு எவ்வளவு செலவாகும் என்பதை அனுசரித்துத்தான் ரூ. 30 கொடுக்கலாம் என்று நிர்ணயிக்கப்பட்டிருக்கிறது. அதை அதிகப்படுத்துவதற்கு இப்போது அவசியமில்லை என்பது சர்க்காருடைய அபிப்பிராயம்."

Sri S. SWAYAMPRAKASAM :—" Sir, the fire engines are used once in a way and therefore the location of fire engines in a place is a costly affair. They are being used to put down fire which breaks out when combustible materials are used on house properties. May I request the Government to take into consideration this aspect and consider what the comparative cost of maintaining fire engines for a period of five years and having houses constructed of non-combustible materials would be and see whether houses cannot be constructed with non-combustible materials with the money that would be required for maintaining fire engines? "

The Hon. Sri C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" This is a very useful suggestion to be pursued, Sir.''

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SRI T. C. NARAYANAN NAMBIAR :—" Sir, the Hon. Minister stated that relief was given to house-owners whose houses were burnt. May I know whether the houses were actually reconstructed?"

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" Yes, it is for the purpose of reconstruction of these houses these moneys were paid and I am sure they would have utilised them for that purpose."

SRI S. RAMALINGAM :—" கிராமங்களில் அடிக்கடி நெருப்புப் பிடித்துக்கொள்கிறது என்பது நிஜந்தான். ஆகையால் இங்கு கட்டடத்தில் ஆங்காங்கே வைத்திருக்கும்படியான தீயணைக்கும் கருவியை ஒவ்வொரு கிராமச் சாவடியிலும் வைத்தால் திடீரென்று ஏற்படும் அபாயத்தைத் தடுப்பதற்கு உபயோகமாக இருக்குமென்று நினைக்கிறேன். அதைப்பற்றி சர்க்கார் எதாவது யோசிப்பார்களா ? "

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" I am afraid, Sir, the suggestion is not worth considering."

SRI K. PARTHASARATHY :—" The Hon. Minister stated that there is a feeling that the location of the fire engines was a heavy weight on the administration. Therefore, will the Government consider, in order to lighten this burden, a scheme for getting help from insurance companies? Since the fire stations are now located in the cities and urban areas, the insurance companies stand to gain by the location of these stations."

THE HON. SRI C. SUBRAMANIAM :—" That means we will have to insure all the thatched houses in the cities. I do not know what the financial implications of this would be."

Assistance to fishermen in towing

* 1108 *Q.*—SRI N. K. PALANISAMY : Will the Hon. the Minister for Agriculture be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the fishermen of Madras are supplied tows to reach fishing grounds and backwaters during the rough weather;

(*b*) if so, the number of the same; and

(*c*) the amount charged for using the tow?

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" (*a*) & (*b*) Some assistance is given to fishermen in towing their catamarams from fishing ground during adverse weather, by one motor fishing vessel stationed at Madras for departmental fishing.

" (*c*) When towing is given to and from the fishing ground when the weather is calm during February–April, one-fifth of the sale proceeds of the catch are collected from the fishermen as towage charges."

SRI N. K. PALANISAMY :—" சார்ஜ் இல்லாமல் அவர்களுக்கு உதவி செய்து கொடுப்பார்களா என்று கேட்கிறேன் ? "

THE HON. SRI M. BHAKTAVATSALAM :—" நல்ல பருவத்திலே தான் சார்ஜ் உண்டு. அப்படி சார்ஜ் பண்ணினலும் மாதத்திற்கு ரூ. 50 தான் ஆகிறது. அதுவும் அந்த செலவிற்காகத்தான் சார்ஜ் செய்யப்படுகிறது."